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ATTACHMENT
IHC-D-126/4

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO.____

Data Element and Code Standardization in the
Intelligence Community for Intelligence and
Intelligence Information

(Approved - Date-_____)

Pursuant to the provisions of NSCID No. 1 (New Series, Revised
4 March 1964), paragraph 3.b. (2), a policy for promoting data elements
and code standards for intelligence and intelligence information is
hereby established.

Definitions

1. This Directive specifically applies to, but is not necessarily
limited to, National Intelligence and Departmental Intelligence as
defined in NSCID No. 1, paragraphs 4.a and 4.b respectively.

2. The definitions of data element, data code, general and
program standards are: 1/

(a) A data element is a grouping of informational units
which has a unique meaning based on a natural or assigned
relationship and subcategories (data items) of distinct units
or values. For example, "month" is a data element whose data
items are "January", "February", "March", etc.

(b) A data code is a number, letter, symbol or any
combination thereof used to represent a data element or a data
item.

1/ Defined in the Bureau of Budget Circular No. A-86, September 30, 1967
Subject: "Standardization of Data Elements and Codes in Data System."

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(c) Federal program standards are "for use in particular related programs concerning more than one agency. Examples are data elements and codes usually limited to use in...unique systems. In these cases, the same source data often are used by several agencies, and aggregation and exchange of information on a program basis are the rule."

(d) Federal general standards are "for general use by most agencies in connection with an extensive number and variety of related or unrelated data systems and programs."

(e) For the purposes of this directive, intelligence falls into the federal program area.

3. Intelligence standards established by means of this Directive fall within and are restricted by the foregoing definitions.

Purpose

4. The purpose of this Directive is to promote the use of standards in the exchange of intelligence and intelligence information to achieve an optimum level of compatibility among information handling systems in the USIB community.

Program Administration

5. The program will be administered by the Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC)[2/] on behalf of the United States Intelligence Board. The Committee will:

[2/] DCID No. 1/4 (New Series), effective 4 April 1968.

(a) Select, coordinate, and approve data elements and codes standards for use throughout the intelligence community.

(b) Encourage the development of program standards where economical and functional advantages have been demonstrated or when a need for a standard has been stated by a member organization.

(c) Adopt, wherever practical, for use as a program standard a general standard published in the Federal Information Processing Standards Register.

(d) Notify the USIB when exemptions to a standard are requested. An IHC recommendation will accompany this notification.

(e) Determine and publish the implementation schedules for approved standards.

(f) Promulgate standards approved for use throughout the intelligence community.

(g) Serve as liaison with non-community organizations on matters pertaining to data element and code standards.